

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 13-24. Please amend claims 1, 2, 7 and 11 as indicated below. The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An administrative module for use in a digital switch, wherein the digital switch includes a plurality of blades coupled to a switching fabric, and wherein each blade outputs serial data streams with in-band control information in multiple stripes to said switching fabric, said administrative module comprising:

a level monitor at a receiving blade that monitors levels of the data received and stored at a the receiving blade; and

a stripe synchronization error detector that detects a stripe synchronization error based on the amount of stored data monitored by said level monitor.

2. (Currently Amended) The administrative module of claim 1, wherein the data received at a receiving blade is sorted based on stripe and source information and stored in a set of data structures, and wherein:

said level monitor monitors the levels of data stored in each data structure of the receiving blade, and

said stripe synchronization error detector detects at least one of an overflow and underflow condition in the amount of stored data received on a respective stripe from a particular source.

3. (Original) The administrative module of claim 1, further comprising:

a flow controller that initiates a recovery routine to re-synchronize data across the stripes in response to detection of a stripe synchronization error.

4. (Original) The administrative module of claim 3, wherein said recovery routine includes throttling back the data flowing to one or more of said stripes.

5. (Original) The administrative module of claim 1, further comprising: a control character presence tracker that identifies the presence of a K2 character during the recovery routine.

6. (Original) The administrative module of claim 1, wherein said -stripe synchronization error detector detects a stripe synchronization error in response to any one or more of the following error conditions: an incoming link error, a cross-point failure, and an outgoing link error.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting stripe synchronization error in a network switch, comprising:

- (a) sorting data received at a receiving slot based on stripe and source information;
- (b) storing the sorted data in a set of data structures at the receiving blade;
- (c) monitoring the levels of data stored in each said data structure; and
- (d) detecting at least one of an overflow and underflow condition in the amount of stored data received on a respective stripe from a particular source.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the source information identifies a slot that sent the data across a switching fabric of the network switch.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the source information identifies a source packet processor that sent the data from a slot across a switching fabric of the network switch.

10. (Original) A method for maintaining synchronization of striped cell traffic, comprising the steps of:

- (a) sending a common character in striped cells in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles;
- (b) evaluating the common control characters received at stripe receive synchronization queues; and
- (c) detecting when an in-synch condition is present that indicates the stripe receive synchronization queues have been cleared.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for managing out-of-synchronization traffic flow through a cross-point switch in a switching fabric, comprising:

- (a) monitoring the level of stripe receive synchronization queues, the stripe receive synchronization queues storing data that passed through the switching fabric;
- (b) determining whether an out-of-synchronization condition exists; and
- (c) initiating a re-synchronization routine when said out-of-synchronization condition exists.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising, after said initiating step (c), the steps of:

(d) sending a common character in striped cells in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles;

(e) evaluating the common control characters received at stripe receive synchronization queues; and

(f) detecting when an in-synch condition is present that indicates the stripe receive synchronization queues have been cleared.

13-24 (canceled).